

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-11 AID-05 /070 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9649

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ALMOGI ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION (WZO)

REF: 75 TEL AVIV 6467

1. AT JANUARY 6 SESSION OF THE ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL, HAIFA MAYOR JOSEPH ALMOGI WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION (WZO) ON LARGELY PARTISAN LINES 67-42. THE OTHER CONTENDER, ACTING JEWISH AGENCY CHAIRMAN ARYE DULZIN, IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN HIS CURRENT POSITION, LEAVING THE WAY CLEAR FOR ALMOGI TO BE ELECTED TO THE JEWISH AGENCY POST LATER THIS YEAR.

2. ALMOGI'S VICTORY WAS WIDELY EXPECTED. THE WZO CHAIRMANSHIP HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A LABOR PARTY (PREVIOUSLY MAPAI) BAILIWICK, AND RABIN AND THE LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE HAD STRONGLY BACKED ALMOGI'S CANDIDACY. HIS ELECTION ENSURES THE CONTINUANCE OF THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND THE WZO/JA LEADERSHIP.

3. A LAST MINUTE HITCH IN THE ELECTION WAS AVERTED WHEN A THREE MEMBER COURT RULED AGAINST A MOTION, REPORTEDLY INTRODUCED BY DULZIN SUPPORTORS, TO POSTPONE THE ELECTION

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UNTIL THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE ZIONIST CONGRESS SCHEDULED

FOR LATE 1976. THE JERUSALEM POST JANUARY 7 REPORTS THAT DULZIN MAY CONSIDER CHALLENGING ALMOGI'S LEADERSHIP AT THAT CONGRESS, BUT DULZIN HIMSELF HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION OF THIS.

4. COMMENT: REAL WINNER OF ELECTION IS RABIN WHO PROVED HIS ABILITY TO MARSHAL THE WZO FORCES BEHIND THE LABOR CANDIDATE. FOR ALMOGI ELECTION REPRESENTS HIGH POINT IN LENGTHY POLITICAL CAREER, BUT ALSO DIFFICULT CHALLENGE OF COPING WITH MANIFOLD PROBLEMS IN DIASPORA-ISRAELI RELATIONS, INCLUDING DECLINING IMMIGRATION FROM BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE FREE WORLD AND CHRONIC FUND-RAISING DIFFICULTIES IN A PERIOD OF WORLDWIDE INFLATION.
DUNNIGAN

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